

00009-22 | Key Points on Potential Impacts to Critical Infrastructure - Convoy in Ottawa - 02 Feb 2022

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Colleagues,

New information in bold as of 17:00 EST, 02 Feb

Overview

- Effective 15 Jan, COVID-19 vaccination became mandatory for all truckers entering Canada from the US to avoid a two-week quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test before arrival.
- Similarly, beginning on 22 Jan, non-US essential workers who are crossing land borders must be fully vaccinated.

Key Points

Details on Demonstrations

- As of 02 Feb:
 - Approximately 10 people currently on Parliament Hill, 30 – 40 people are on Wellington and surrounding streets, 30 people in Confederation Park.
 - There are approximately 100 to 200 demonstrators in a parking lot near Chaudière Bridge.
 - Counter-protest located at Metcalfe and Wellington, currently peaceful.
 - There is an expectation there will be additional convoys coming to Ottawa this weekend.
 - Provincial Liaison Team has engaged with groups who have expressed interest in coming to Ottawa this weekend.
- Demonstration in the NCR has scaled down over the past 24 hours.
- Police have now made a third arrest following protest-related investigations – [Link](#)
- In a briefing to city councilors on 02 Feb, the Chief of the Ottawa Police stated policing alone might not solve the ongoing occupation of the downtown core and military aid might be necessary. – [Link](#)
 - No Request for Federal has been received and the GOC is not aware of any conversations on this topic.
- * Demonstration continues the border port of entry at Coutts, AB.
 - * As of 16:00 EST, it has been reported that the last of several trucks blocking the highway in the vicinity of Coutts have moved and traffic has been able to proceed through two open lanes, allowing access to the US border. – [Link](#)
 - * A spokesperson for the blockade stated they have opened the lanes with the understanding the province will remove COVID-19 restrictions from rural areas and end the Restrictions Exemption Program.

- * In the last few days, several invitations have been sent out on social networks to call on the population to go and demonstrate to demand an end to the state of emergency and health measures in QC. [Link](#)
 - * Convoys of cars and trucks are planning to leave from several locations in QC. The arrival in Québec City of a large part of the demonstrators is scheduled for early afternoon 05 Feb.
- * **Police say that they are aware of planned similar protest at Queen's Park Toronto this weekend – [Link](#)**
- * **In addition to the event in Ottawa, a Mariners for Freedom vessel parade is being planned across Canada, reportedly aiming to “protest in ports and all over Canadian shipping lanes.”**
 - * The movement's Facebook page had gained over 7,000 members by 01 Feb, and an additional 5,000 members in the past 12 hours.
 - * The event is planned for 04 Feb at 13:00 local time at participant ports. While disruptive activity is not being considered for 04 Feb, consideration is being given to disrupting commercial marine transportation in future events should demands not be met.

Preparedness and Response efforts

- **The GOC hosted a Significant Event Information Sharing Protocol (SEISP) teleconference with partners at TBS and PCO at 13:00 EST.** Teleconferences will continue on an ad hoc basis for the remainder of the week.
- On 29 Jan, a NOTAM was issued for airspace restriction over Parliament Hill and has been extended until 07 Feb.
- * On 01 Feb, the Request for Federal Assistance (RFA) from Ontario for access to Cartier Square Drill Hall parking lot in Ottawa for use as a staging area concluded as the space is no longer required.
- Ottawa Police Service (OPS) additionally reports the following:
 - No violence took place in the NCR despite national protest for a wide variety of causes.
 - Continue to avoid nonessential travel to the down town core.
- OPS and Ontario Provincial Police resources continue to address areas of tension with truckers/demonstrators and maintaining public safety is the number one priority.
- For information on [planned traffic routes and road closures](#).
- For updates on the [City of Ottawa road closures and traffic](#) or via social media [@Ottawa_Traffic](#) and [@Ottawa_Circule](#).

Overall Assessment: (derived from information available on open sources):

- The majority of the event has been peaceful.
- Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is so far minor.
- There is currently no known end time for the demonstrations.

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